

**TURKISHFORUM** 



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Mr. Douglas L. Becker Founder, Chairman and CEO

Dear Mr. Becker:

We, as the Turkish Forum/World Turkish Alliance, an NGO with its headquarters located in America, felt it of utter siginicance to contact you regarding an issue that we believe is not befitting one of the Laureate Institutions that should act impartially no matter what the issue is.

The institution concerned is Bilgi University in Istanbul which will be holding a conference announced as "**Groundbreaking Academic Conference on Armenian Genocide in Istanbul**" where all the speakers will be treating the problem from the Armenian perspective and there is not one single individual invited to speak on behalf of the Turkish side and to respond to potential accusations coming from the speakers.

We believe it's the first and foremost responsibility of Instituions of Tertiary Education to keep their impartiality on all matters and give the opportunity to all stakeholders. As you can see from the list of invited speakers which are mentioned in the enclosed Conference Announcement, the objectivity of the Unievrsity is betrayed.

This situation has caused utter unrest in the country. There are well known scholars in Turkey who have devoted their life to conducting research and writing books and articles on this "so-called Armenian genocide" would be more than willing to be the included in the list as speakers, and we can assure you, they would do this voluntarily.

Perhaps you may recall the verdict of the European Human Rights Court concernig the Turkish stance in Switzerland not so long ago, and even this case is a proof of how wrong a decision the University came up with by holding such a conference on their campus grounds.

This conference will put a blemish on the University's reputation and as their enrolment numbers are going up, this conference in its current format, will definitely have an adverse effect.

We would be more than happy to assist you in providing names of speakers who reside in Turkey and are well known. For your convenience, here are the nemes: Prof.Dr.Justin Mc Carthy, Prof.Dr. Yusuf Halacoglu and Assist.Prof.Dr. Orhan Cekic.

We do hope you will take this matter into consideration and contact the University administration explaining the uneasiness felt by the Turkish people both at home and abroad.

Yours respectfully,

Dr. Kayaalp Buyukataman

CEO and Drasidant